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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAR 22 2005

Applicant(s): K. AOTA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/600,576

Filed: June 23, 2003

For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD AND STRUCTURE
BODY

Group: 1725

Examiner: K. Stoner

TERMINAL DISCLAIMERCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 22, 2005

Sir:

Petitioner, Hitachi, Ltd., having its place of business at 6, Kanda Surugadai 4-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan, represents that it is the sole owner of the entire interest of the above-identified Application No. 10/600,576, filed June 23, 2003, for FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD AND STRUCTURE BODY, and that a copy of the Assignment of all rights in connection with the above-identified application is attached hereto.

Petitioner hereby disclaims all that portion of the term of any patent to be issued on the above-identified application subsequent to the expiration date of the full statutory term, defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173, of any U.S. Patent Issuing from Application No. 10/600,611, filed June 23, 2003 (hereinafter "said any U.S. Patent issuing from No. 10/600,611"), and hereby agrees that any patent issued on the above-identified application shall be enforceable only for and during such time as the said any U.S. Patent issuing from No. 10/600,611 and the above-

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identified application are commonly owned.

Petitioner, however, does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application prior to the expiration date of the full statutory term, defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173, of the above-listed said any U.S. Patent issuing from No. 10/600,611 in the event that said any U.S. Patent issuing from No. 10/600,611 expires: for failure to pay a maintenance fee; is held unenforceable; is found invalid; is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321; has all claims cancelled by a reexamination certificate; is reissued; or is otherwise terminated prior to expiration of the above-referred-to full statutory term, except for the separation of legal title as stated above.

This disclaimer is to be binding with respect to any patent granted on the above-identified application, and is binding upon grantees, their successors, or assignees of any interests.

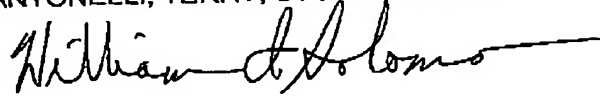
The undersigned is an attorney of record in this application and is empowered to act on behalf of Hitachi, Ltd. for execution and submission of Terminal Disclaimers, in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.321(b) and (c), effective January 4, 1994.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein of his knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code

and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,

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